

2010824 Retiree News

1. The Promise. *Retiree News* contains information about benefits, National Guard events, and news about current, former, and retired members. There will be no chain e-mail, cute pictures, or sales pitches. Publication of *Retiree News* is on a random schedule – as topics come up and time permits. If you change your mind about receiving issues of *Retiree News*, send an e-mail to retireenews@hawaiiantel.net and you will be off the *Retiree News* mailing list.

2. Rules of Engagement (ROE). Periodically, someone e-mails a request for contact information for another *Retiree News* reader. We forward that e-mail to the reader for their action. This preserves the privacy of the reader and their e-mail address.

3. Business.

The annual look at the costs of military benefits is ongoing. This year, the review has a little more momentum and could lead to increased charges for military benefits. Of particular interest are the possible charges for TRICARE. The following articles cover some of the ongoing comments among military leaders and congressional panels.

- Advisory Panels Say Military Benefits Unsustainable. Tom Philpott, a *Military Times* writer, posted this article on August 05, 2010.

A consensus is building among current and former military leaders and defense industry executives that rising military personnel costs threaten the viability of the all-volunteer force.

In July, two separate advisory groups reached the same general conclusions regarding what needs to be done to sustain the force. In the nearer term, they say, one step that must be taken is to make military retirees pay more out of pocket for their health care benefit.

"Unless retirees contribute more for their [TRICARE](#) insurance, medical costs will not be brought under control and the national defense they served, and for which they fought and sacrificed, will be harmed," says the final report of the Quadrennial Defense Review Independent Panel.

The panel is co-chaired by former Defense Secretary William J. Perry from the Clinton administration and Stephen J. Hadley who was national security advisor through President George W. Bush's second term.

Longer term, and for the future force, panelists say, work must begin on designing new retirement, compensation and promotion systems to replace inefficient and rigid systems adopted after World War II. The situation is so critical that the Hadley-Perry panel asks Congress to establish a new National Commission on Military Personnel to lead the reform effort.

Arnold Punaro, a defense industry executive and retired Marine Corps Reserve major general, chairs a task force for the Defense Business Board that will deliver its final report to Defense Secretary Robert Gates in October.

Task force "initial observations" for cutting defense costs through best business practices, briefed to the board July 22, reinforces the notion that personnel accounts must be brought under control by modernizing retirement, pay, health benefits and the "up-or-out" promotion systems.

Both studies deal with a far wider range of initiatives to restructure forces and streamline organizations. The Hadley-Perry report can be read online at <http://www.usip.org/files/qdr/qdrreport.pdf>,

and task force observations are at <http://dbb.defense.gov/meetings.html>.

What both conclude on the need to control health costs and modernize compensation systems, Punaro said, is consistent with findings of the 10th Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation and the 2006 Defense Advisory Commission on Military Compensation. But now, with Defense Secretary Gates' leadership and a new awareness among military leaders to the burden of mounting personnel costs, there's a fresh groundswell for change, he said.

"I've heard a four-star military leader comment that DoD is turning into a benefits company that will occasionally kill a terrorist," Punaro said in a phone interview Tuesday. The remark plays off a popular critique of General Motors before its recent bail out, that union contracts had transformed it into a health care company that occasionally built a car.

Both the business board task force and the Hadley-Perry panel agree that the current force must be protected from the changes to retirement, pay or promotion policies needed to create a more efficient future force.

"Updating [military compensation](#) and redesigning some [benefits](#) does not necessitate cuts in pay or benefits for current service members," said the Hadley-Perry report.

"These are areas where any adjustment you make will take decades to change," Punaro said. "With something like military retirement, you are not going to break faith with people who joined expecting a certain benefit, even though only 20 percent stay long enough to earn a retirement."

But rapid expansion of military entitlements has become part of "the nation's mandatory spending problems," the task force found. Among "significant unsustainable trends" that the task force listed is paying military retirees and their families "for 60 years after they have served only 20."

Another task force slide give details of how military entitlements have expanded "rapidly" over the last decade with Congress passing [TRICARE for Life](#), a more robust [pharmacy benefit](#), concurrent receipt for disabled retirees, extra-size active duty pay raises, an [improved survivor benefit plan](#), sharp growth in housing allowances, a bigger [death gratuity](#) and more.

Punaro declined to criticize any specific initiative. But, he said, "nobody ever sat down and said, 'what's the cumulative effect of all this?'"

The effect, says the Hadley-Perry report, is personnel costs "have grown drastically on a per capita basis."

As the economy recovers and the job market rebounds, Punaro said, the cost of sustaining the military will accelerate even more.

Punaro, who served as staff director of the Senate Armed Services Committee for eight years, noted that much of the recent entitlement growth has helped only retirees and their families, a population that now outnumbers the active duty community.

"TRICARE for Life, the largest new benefit ever passed, was not subject to any kind of serious review or debate, as best as I can tell. Is that the way to pass something like that? And, okay, just because you passed it, does it have to be in existence for 100 years? Bob Gates makes a pretty compelling argument that 'health care costs are eating us alive'."

Punaro criticized military associations that, he said, push continually for benefits with little heed to more pressing defense priorities. Military leaders and lawmakers this decade have been complicit, he suggested.

"It doesn't take a profile in courage to stand up and be for every benefit that anybody has ever dreamed up. That's easy. It takes a lot of courage to be responsible...It looks to some of us that we've changed the slogan 'Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition' to 'Praise the Lord and pass the benefit.'

I remember working with military associations when their number one goal was a strong national defense, not more benefits

Tom Philpott's August 12, 2010 column provided additional information about proposed TRICARE fee increases. Go to:

<http://www.military.com/features/0,15240,218693,00.html?wh=news>

- McKinley Reviews National Guard's Contribution. Arlington, Virginia, Aug. 5, 2010 - In response to Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates' effort to find efficiencies throughout the services, the National Guard is taking a hard look at how it operates. Air Force Gen Craig R. McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau, kicked off the Guard's effort by releasing a report titled, "[The National Guard: A Great Value for America](#)," which will guide efforts to improve efficiency at the bureau and push resources to the operational force.

In May, Gates called for a 2 to 3 percent reduction in overhead costs in the fiscal 2012 defense budget request, with the money saved being dedicated to force structure. McKinley said the National Guard plays an important role in achieving the secretary's goals. The Guard adds value to America by supporting domestic missions and defending the nation's interests overseas with our active duty counterparts, he said.

"While America's military represents a balance between what this country needs to guarantee its security and what we can afford, the National Guard delivers an exceptional value in this security equation," McKinley said.

In 2010, the Army National Guard has consumed less than 11 percent of the Army's budget while providing almost 40 percent of the Army's operating force, Guard officials said. The Air National Guard has operated on less than 7 percent of the Air Force's budget during this fiscal year, and it currently comprises about one-third of the Air Force's capability.

"These same forces also stand ready to save lives and ease suffering at home because of our National Guard's 'dual mission' nature," McKinley said.

"Whatever people, expertise and equipment we maintain as America's operational reserve can also be used here on the homefront in a variety of missions that directly benefit American citizens."

The value that the National Guard brings to the nation is undeniable, the general said. "As everyone in the Department of Defense continues to navigate this fiscally constrained environment, it is critical for defense planners and decision-makers to understand the great benefit that the National Guard brings as a dual-use military force," McKinley said. "And rest assured that the National Guard is working to identify further efficiencies that offer even greater value to America."

After nearly 374 years of successfully meeting the nation's needs, McKinley said, the National Guard intends to stay relevant for generations to come.

"As the Department of Defense continues to work innovative solutions to the changing fiscal and global security environments, it would be hard to imagine what an America without its National Guard would look like," he said.

At home, the Guard's expertise includes the air superiority mission, which is performed by the Air National Guard, response to natural disasters across the country and emerging missions, such as security support on the southwest border and oil cleanup efforts in the Gulf of Mexico, Guard officials said.

Overseas, the Guard's presence is strongly felt as well. About three-quarters of today's National Guard have deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom, Guard officials said. Almost 25 percent of the Guard's current force has deployed more than once in support of these operations. Guardsmen are also serving in the Balkans, Guantanamo Bay and the Sinai.

"Together with the active components, we can fulfill critical overseas commitments that otherwise would simply be impossible to sustain," McKinley said.

He said it also takes sacrifice from the Guard's soldiers and airmen and their families and employers, who must endure the long separations of a combat deployment.

"Our value proposition, along with all we're called upon to do at home and abroad to keep Americans safe, makes for one potent force to confront America's enemies and hazards at home," McKinley said. "I don't think there's ever been a better or more important time to be part of the Guard family, and I thank each family member from the bottom of my heart for all they do."

If the embedded link to "The National Guard: A Great Value for America" does not work, use this link http://www.ng.mil/Images1/docs/Value_of_the_National_Guard.pdf

• VJ Day Celebration in Honolulu Video. Mahalo to **Ray Starling** and the many other *Retiree News* readers sent in this link to an old, but very good quality film showing the VJ celebration in Honolulu. VJ – Victory over Japan marked the end of World War II on August 14, 1945. The first street sequence after "The Greatest Generation" title is a car going up South Street past the Advertiser building on the right. A very long time ago.

Go to: <http://vimeo.com/5645171>



• Hawai'i National Guard Association Yellow Pages. The Hawai'i National Guard Association (HNGA) is establishing its own yellow pages strictly for soldiers, airmen, retirees of the Hawai'i National Guard, and immediate family members. The intent is for Guard members to shop for goods and services within our own Guard Community as well as helping one another out.

The HNGA is looking for carpenters, electricians, attorneys, dentist, musicians, auto detailing, insurance representatives, and other businesses the Guard members own or run. If interested in joining, please provide the following information for your website advertisement.

- Specialty (i.e., Auto Detailing, Musician, Attorney, etc)
- Name /Name of business
- Unit of Assignment
- POC Information (how do you want people to contact you - your website, e-mail, phone number, etc)
- Description (short summary of business)

Send your information to Rusty Spray, HNGA Vice President at william.r.spray@us.army.mil. The first year is free. After the first year, you must be a member of either the Hawai'i National Guard Association or the Hawai'i National Guard Enlisted Association.

4. The Wanted List. We are looking for these *Retiree News* readers because their e-mail addresses on file for them no longer works. Please forward their new e-mail address to retireenews@hawaiiantel.net if you can share them.

Barbara Lee
George Lumives
Victor Ioli
Jeffrey Okazaki
Norman Chang
Chris Wilson
Tom Gresch

Mark Waddell
Francis Kawahara
Roberto Carlos
Patrick Casey
Steve Ware
Katherine Asato

The addresses now total **1300** members. Be sure to ask your fellow retirees that you meet if they receive *Retiree News*. If not, send their e-mail address to retireenews@hawaiiantel.net. Mahalo for your support!

Following are the new or updated e-mail addresses sent in by the individuals or *Retiree News* readers – Mahalo for adding or updating your e-mail address.

Terry Ganiko (update)
Howard Inoue

Vernon Miyake

5. Condolences. These Hawai'i National Guard retirees and those who served with the Guard passed away recently. They all served honorably and added something to our unique culture here in the Guard. Aloha Pumehana to all....

No passings this issue

6. Retiree Update.

● Attention to Orders - HIANG's Newest Colonel. **Brig Gen Joseph Kim** announced the promotion of **Stephen Su'a-Filo** to colonel effective August 12, 2010. Colonel Su'a-Filo serves as the commander of the 154th Operations Group. Congratulations to Steve!

Send congratulatory e-mail: stephen.suafilo@hihick.ang.af.mil

● HIARNG Officer Appointments and Promotions. The Hawai'i Army National Guard G1 Branch staff provided the following information on recent officer appointments and promotions. Federal recognition documents were just received. Congratulations to all!

Melvin Masaki, HIARNG Element, Joint Force Headquarters
Promoted to CW2 effective 5 March 2010
Send congratulatory e-mail: melvin.masaki@us.army.mil

CPT Micah Morningstar, 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
Initial Appointment effective July, 17 2010
Send congratulatory e-mail: micah.morningstar@us.army.mil

David Sanchez, HIARNG Element, Joint Force Headquarters
Promoted to CPT effective August 17, 2010

Send congratulatory e-mail: david.sergio.sanchez@us.army.mil

- HIANG Has a Flickr Photo Sharing Site. **MSgt Kristen Stanley**, of the 154th Wing Public Affairs Office, sent in the link to the Hawai'i Air National Guard's Flickr photo sharing site. The page shares photos of recent HIANG events, including the recent F-22 Raptor arrival and the alert transfer to the 120th Fighter Wing, Montana Air National Guard. Thanks to Kristen for her hard work on the site.

Go to: www.flickr.com/photos/hiang.

- A Long Distance Aloha and Mahalo to **COL (Ret) James Chisman**. Jim served as the Ohio National Guard Alumni Affairs coordinator and recently retired from the job. Some of the articles you have read in *Retiree News* came from his retiree newsletter. He did a great job in a state with a very large National Guard population. Happy Retirement Jim!

- Retiree Connections.

- Shopping in the Hickam Commissary, I ran into **Kaipo Sing**. He's a smiling retiree and looking forward to the University of Hawaii Wahine volleyball season. He attends home games with fellow HIANG retirees, **Ivan Mineshima** and **Lester Ho**. Great catching up with Kaipo!

- On the same shopping trip, I met **Robert Yokono** at the checkout line. We had a very quick talk, but Bob looked great – another smiling retiree!

- From the 154th Support Group Training Bulletin. While serving as the executive officer for the then 154th Support Group from the mid 90s through the early 00s, I was the editor of the group's *Training Bulletin*. The following excerpts are from my "In My Opinion" column in the **August 1993** issue. How time flies....

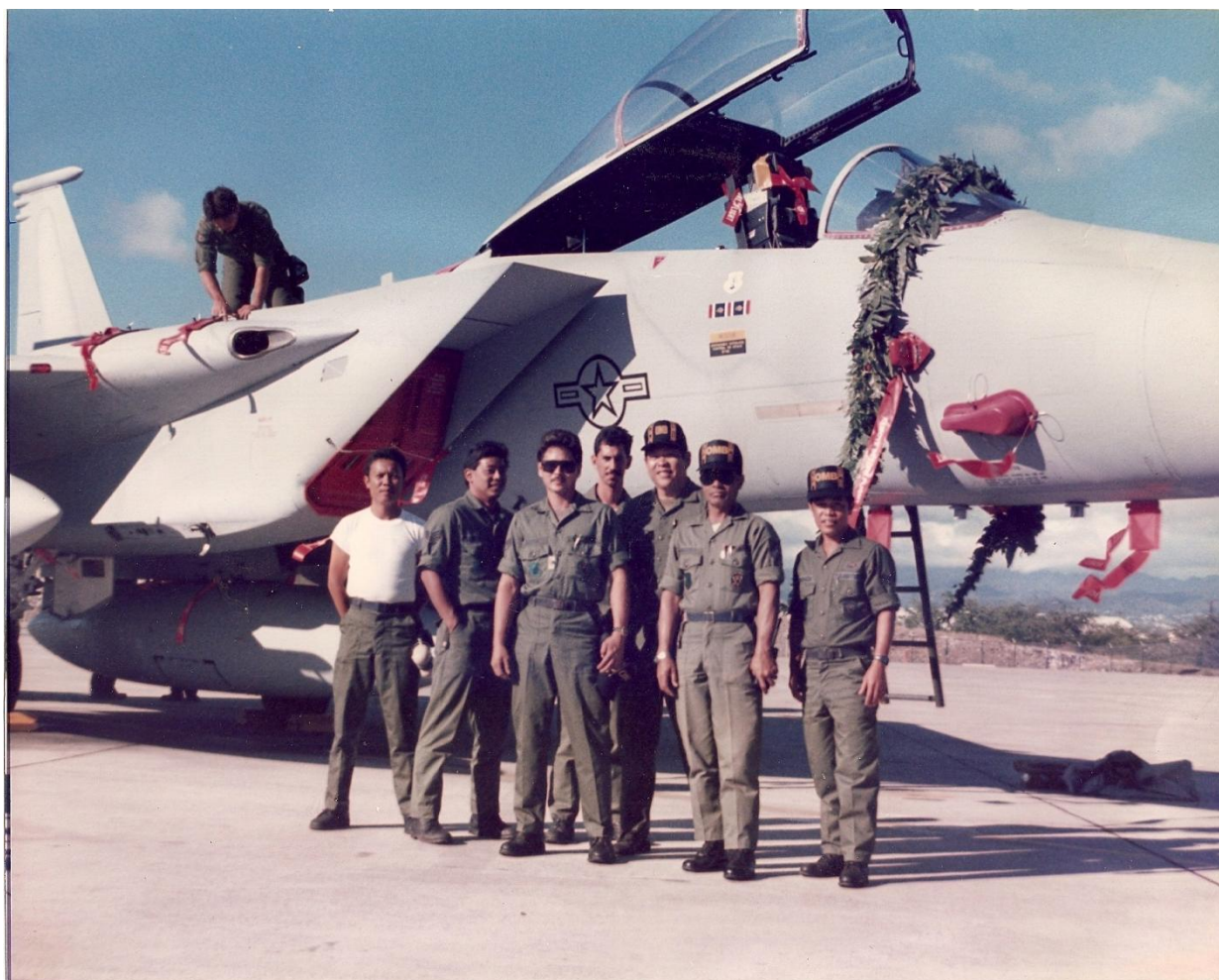
Welcome back goes to our air base operability section, who deployed with the 154th Civil Engineering Squadron to Kadena AB, Japan. Personnel deploying were **Lt Jason Apo**, **MSgt John Fitzgerald**, **MSgt Lennox Cockett**, **SSgt Raymond Vegas**, and **SSgt Lyndon Williams**. There were other HIANG ABO personnel who also deployed: **TSgt Albert Carroll**, 298 ATCF, **TSgt John Kaiser**, 292 CCSQ, and **SrA Steven Carvalho**, 154 ACS. In addition to the required BRATT training, they completed other ABO training with the Kadena cadre.

Congratulations to everyone who worked on **Lt Col Edwin Chung-Hoon's** retirement golf tournament for an outstanding job. Lt Col Chung-Hoon retired as a technician on July 30th, but will remain with us as a Traditional Guardsperson. Happy Retirement Colonel!

Did you know our own **TSgt Joseph K. Kim** has an identification problem? Seems the 203d Air Refueling Squadron recently appointed a new tanker pilot named **Capt Joseph K. Kim**. Didn't check if their middle names are the same, but their middle initials are both "K." Hope they get to meet each other soon and compare notes!

- Checking Out Old Photos. As the Hawai'i Air National Guard started receiving its F-22 Raptors earlier this month, the following photograph shows the F-15 Eagle arrival in 1986. **Donna Von**, who served in the 154th Communications Flight, sent it in the following photo. **Gary Von**, Donna's husband and another HIANG retiree, identifying most of the members. **Dave Paahana** added another name and **Miles Kaneshiro** provide other names and these comments.

We were the night shift crew, still working the F-4's. When we came in that day, the ceremony was over and the F15 was back on the line being closed up. I believe that's [Art Kaai](#) on top of the plane.



Left to right: Feliciano "Felix" Valdez, Miles Kaneshiro, Michael Sniffen, Rex Peters, Gary Von, David Paahana, Fernando Mendoza

Special thanks to Donna for sending in this photo.

7. Upcoming Events. The events listed are by the event date. The red star ★ denotes new or updated post since the last issue of *Retiree News*.

★ Retirement Party for MSgt Ken Aoki. Please come and join the Non-destructive Inspection Shop as they bid farewell to [MSgt Kenneth Aoki](#) and celebrate his 41 years of military service. The specifics follow:

When: Sunday, September 12, 2010

Time: 1800-2100

Where: [Hawaiian Brian's](#)
1680 Kapi'olani Boulevard, 2nd Floor

Cost: \$30.00 per person; gift only: \$5.00
Menu: Mochiko Chicken, Furikake Mahi-mahi, Mixed Greens, Mac Salad, Noodles, Rice, Fruit Punch. Cocktails are no-host.
RSVP: Monday, August 27, 2010; checks payable to [Nefi Martinez](#)
POC: [Nefi Martinez](#) at 448-7222
[Sam Bukoski](#) at 448-7460

Send congratulatory e-mail: kenneth.aoki@hihick.ang.af.mil

★ DOD Retirement and Service Awards Luncheon. Friday, September 24, 2010 is the date for the next DOD Retirement and Awards Luncheon. The Adjutant General's Award and State Manager of the Year Award will be presented during the program.

Invitations have gone out to the following retirees and service award awardees. The names of the honorees attending will announced as their RSVPs are received.

When: Friday, September 24, 2010
Where: [Hale Koa Hotel](#), Banyan Tree Showroom
Time: 1100-1300
Cost: \$26.00 (includes gratuity)
Checks payable to "[DoD Retirement and Service Award Fund](#)"
Menu: Hale Koa salad with house dressing; grilled skirt steak with shiitake mushroom sauce, paired with broiled mahi-mahi fillet; garlic mashed potatoes; sautéed zucchini with tomatoes; coffee or tea and red velvet cake.

Retirees: contact [CMSgt Deb Brownhill](#), 672-1233 or debra.brownhill@us.army.mil



• Retirement Luncheon for SFC Scott Nomura. Please come and join the Human Resources Office as we give a fond farewell to [SFC Scott Nomura](#) and celebrate his 37 years of military service. The specifics follow:

When: Friday, 1 October 2010
Time: 1130-1330
Where: [Hale Ikena](#), Ft Shafter
Cost: \$21.00 per person; gift only: \$5.00

Attire: Military: uniform of the day; Civilian: Aloha attire
RSVP: Monday, August 16, 2010; checks payable to [Cash](#)
POC: [MSG Maria Durham](#), 844-6291 or mariavictoria.durham@us.army.mil

Send congratulatory e-mail: scott.nomura@us.army.mil

★ United States Air Force 63rd Birthday Ball. This year's 63rd USAF Birthday Ball will celebrate the Pacific Centennial of Flight 1910-2010. The HIANG point of contact for the ball is [SMSgt Rob Shigeta](#). Contact him at 448-8439 or robby.shigeta@hihick.ang.af.mil. Tickets will be on sale August 2-27, 2010. The specifics follow:

When: Friday, September 17, 2010, starting at 1730
Where: Hawai'i Ballroom, [Sheraton Waikiki Resort](#)

Attire: Military: Mess Dress; Civilian: Formal

Cost:	E1 – E4	\$20	GS1 – GS9	\$40
	E5 – E6	\$40	GS10 – GS12	\$60
	E7 – E8	\$50	GS13 – GS14	\$70
	E9	\$60	GS15	\$80
	O1 – O3	\$60		
	O4 – O5	\$70	Retired	\$60
	O6 – O10	\$80	DV	\$80



• Save the Date – Hawai'i National Guard Birthday Ball. This year's Hawai'i National Guard Birthday Ball is on Saturday, December 11, 2010 at the [J.W. Marriott Ihilani Resort and Spa](#) in Kapolei. This joint event celebrates the 374th Birthday of our National Guard's beginnings. The planning meetings for this annual event have already begun. Definitely more details to come.

To find out more about the Ihilani, go to <http://www.ihilani.com/>

8. Website Links.

Past Issues of Retiree News are on line at the Hawaii State Department of Defense's website. Go to: <http://hawaii.gov/dod/staff-offices/public-affairs/retiree-news>. If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.

The 2010 Issues of the 154th Wing's newspaper, the Kūkā'ilimoku, is on the Hawaii State Department of Defense's website. Go to: <http://hawaii.gov/dod/hiang/kukailimoku/2010-kukailimoku-issues>. If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.

The 154th Wing's External Website is Online. The 154th Wing's external website is accessible from any computer. Check it out at www.154wg.ang.af.mil. Be sure to check out the "photos tab". If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.

The State Department of Defense's Newspaper, the pupukahi, is Online. The *pupukahi* is now electronic. The link to the current issue starts at www.hawaii.gov/dod - then click on the *pupukahi* link listed under the "What's New?" section.

The Spring Issue of On Guard Magazine is Online. The new Spring issue of the *On Guard* online is out, go to http://www.ng.mil/features/onguard-mag/pdf/Spring10/Spring_2010.pdf. If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser. This is a very slow loading website.

The August 2010 Issue of Soldiers Magazine is Online. To view the current issue of *Soldiers*, the official U.S. Army magazine, just log on to: <http://www.army.mil/soldiers/>. You can view back issues (electronic issues only) by clicking on "back issues" on the scroll bar. If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.

The July-August 2010 Issue of Airman Magazine is Online. To view the current issue of *Airman Magazine*, just log on to: <http://www.airmanonline.af.mil/>. If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser. You can view back issues (electronic issues only) by clicking on "back issues" on the scroll bar.